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DON'T WORRY -- THE REDS ARE STILL 90 MILES AWAY

Whiting Willauer is the most recent of a long list of U. S. Ambassadors whose expert advice on combating Communism was rewarded with dismissal from diplomatic positions. Arthur Bliss Lane, U.S. Ambassador to Poland, sacrificed his top position in the diplomatic corps to write his book, I SAW POLAND BETRAYED. Patrick Hurley, U.S. Ambassador to China, resigned from his job in a dramatic attempt to warn our citizens that the State Department was helping the Reds take over China. Arthur Gardner and Earl T. Smith, two U.S. Ambassadors to Cuba, warned our Government that Castro was a Communist and a danger to America. But the State Department pigeonholed their reports and asked for their resignations. Clare Timberlake, one of our best African experts, was replaced as U.S. Ambassador to the Congo because he was too anti-Communist for the Lummumba-lovers to tolerate. Now a Senate Committee has revealed how another U.S. Ambassador, Whiting Willauer, was fired for trying to make sure that the Bay of Pigs invasion did not fail.

Willauer was a brilliant man, a former U.S. Ambassador to several countries, a lawyer, and a linguist. He held a position of strategic importance with General Chennault's Flying Tiger operation during World War II. He was legal coordinator of Admiral Byrd's second Antarctic expedition. He had held various Government positions including special representative of the President to the Philippines to reconstitute the civilian economy after World War II. He held a pilot's license for multiengine aircraft, and was an expert diver having received commendation for rescue work performed at the risk of his own life while he was Ambassador to Honduras. He began his study of Communism and how to fight it through a connection with the Dies Committee 25 years ago.

In 1954, on the basis of his practical experience in fighting international Communism, Willauer was appointed Ambassador to Honduras for the specific purpose of helping to bring about the overthrow of the Communist regime in neighboring Guatemala. Willauer was the American in charge of a team consisting of John Puerifoy, Ambassador Robert Hill and several CIA men. Willauer's team succeeded in throwing the Communists out of Guatemala -- the only example of the successful overthrow of a Communist government. Ambassador Willauer received a commendation from Allen Dulles which stated that the Guatemalan revolution could not have succeeded without Whiting Willauer.

Willauer was never deceived by Castro. When our State Department and other prominent Americans were lauding Castro as a sincere idealist and as the Robin Hood of Cuba, Willauer accurately judged Castro to be a Communist on the basis of his Communist associates and his use of the same tactics the Chinese Reds used 15 years before. On Jan. 27, 1959 Willauer began sending a series of reports to the State Dept. sounding an alarm about Castro. These reports were supplemented by a number of trips to Washington at his own expense to advise senior State Dept. officials.

On Dec. 10, 1960 Willauer was called into Secretary of State Herter's office and told that President Eisenhower had "a very special job" for him. Herter told Willauer: "There has been going on since March 17, 1960, the preparations of an invasion, backed by the CIA, but run by Cubans. There is quite a lot of doubt about whether this plan is correct, what the timing should be, various problems about pulling the thing together. I want you to be the senior partner of a partnership of two people. Your junior partner will be a top CIA man. And you will report to.... 'a board of directors' of Under Secretary level.... You are to have access to every piece of information, you are not to do anything in writing that you can avoid putting down on paper. But get in there and take a good hard look at this thing. Give us your real opinion on it."

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So on Dec. 15, 1960 Willauer started work on the Bay of Pigs invasion as the very top representative of the U.S. Government. He made suggestions about air cover for the invasion. He saw to it that the Joint Chiefs of Staff were advised about invasion plans. He consulted with the American pilots who trained the Cuban pilots for the invasion. He operated on the premise that "this thing should not be done or undertaken unless there was practically no chance it would fail, and that we should have to commit ourselves in advance to see that it was backed up, so that it could not fail."

On Feb. 8 at 11:30 a.m. Willauer was called to a meeting in Secretary of State Rusk's office, attended by A.A. Berle, Tom Mann, Chester Bowles and Theodore Achilles. This meeting was called preparatory to a conference President Kennedy was to have that afternoon at 3 o'clock to review the invasion plans. Willauer discussed the invasion plans, but it became apparent to him that the others were not primarily interested in this. Willauer's main interest was to make the invasion a success, while the others were much more concerned with what other countries would think of the invasion. When the meeting broke up, Willauer thought Berle motioned him to follow. But as Willauer came to Berle's office door, Berle went in first, followed by Achilles and Mann. Berle turned to Willauer and said: "You are not needed."

About Feb. 15 Willauer felt that the plans for the Bay of Pigs invasion had progressed to where he needed to talk to the CIA in order to complete arrangements for the jet cover for the invasion. He arranged an appointment for a few days later with the appropriate officials in the CIA. On the day before the appointment, Tracy Barnes of the CIA, who was serving as Willauer's junior partner in the Bay of Pigs invasion plans, telephoned Willauer and said: "We can't talk to you any more. We can only talk to other people." This was the only official word Willauer had that he was cut out of the Bay of Pigs invasion plans.

Secretary Rusk was out of the country at the SEATO Conference, and so Willauer tried to see Under Secretary Chester Bowles. Willauer called Bowles' secretary every day for 30 days straight, but was unable to get an appointment. One day Willauer met Bowles in the hall. Bowles said: "I am awfully busy, I will see you later." But he never did. Willauer met Berle a couple of times and asked Berle what he was supposed to do. Berle said: "I don't know." Willauer finally realized that he was being given the general runaround and had been frozen out of all preparation for the Bay of Pigs invasion.

Willauer was amazed that he was fired from his job without being permitted to give anyone the benefit of his experience. Of all men in our Government, Willauer was the most uniquely qualified to oversee the American-backed attempt to overthrow Castro because Willauer had led the team which did a similar job so successfully in Guatemala.

Because Willauer was not kept in charge, the Swan Island radio station "somehow" failed to broadcast the signal to the Cuban underground, the Lignum Vitae Island Station was forbidden to tell the Escambray guerillas to cut the only rail line from Havana to the Bay of Pigs over which Castro moved his tanks, Castro's air force was not knocked out, some invaders armed with 30-caliber machine guns received 50-caliber ammunition, others armed with Garand rifles received cartridges made from Springfields, paratroopers had no sleep for two nights and no food or water for seven hours before jumping into Cuba, and American warships steamed away without even offering the outgunned invaders a Dunkerque evacuation. Many of the ransomed Cuban freedom fighters asked reporter Ray Henle: "Did someone want the invasion to fail?"

Some months after the Bay of Pigs invasion in April 1961 resulted in total failure, Willauer died of a broken heart, knowing that, had he been kept on the job, seven million people would have had a chance of liberation from Communism. Whiting Willauer's sworn testimony was given to the Senate Internal Security Sub-committee in July 1961, but it has just recently been released as part 13 of the hearings entitled: COMMUNIST THREAT TO THE UNITED STATES THROUGH THE CARIBBEAN. Write your Senator for a copy.